

PROGRAM

EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

MASTERING SMALLNESS

Strategies and Practices of Small-Scale Actors

October 20-21, 2026

Venue: Lithuanian Institute of History, Conference Hall, 17 Tiltos Street / Vilnius, Lithuania

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

09:00 a.m. Welcome and Registration

09:15 a.m. **PANEL 1: COUNTERCULTURE AND RESILIENCE AT THE MARGINS**

moderated by Larissa Friedrich, Mgr.

Kamile Steponavičiūtė: Reclaiming the Sacred: Post-Soviet Ecclesiastical Architecture as a Strategy of Small-Scale Community Resistance

Ksenia Butuzova: Writing a History of Little Things: Rebus-Making and the Cultural Politics of Smallness in Late Imperial Russia

Volha Davydzik: Unproductive Labour and the Recomposition of the Political: Artistic Practices and Infrastructures of Protest

Ieva Kristinaitytė: Socialists, Social Democrats, Liberals: Lithuanian forerunners and dissent

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. **DISCUSSION**

12:00 a.m. Lunch

01:00 p.m. **PANEL 2: VISIBILITY, AUTONOMY AND AGENCY IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

moderated by Dr. Tatsiana Astrouskaya

Daria Kuznetsova: Two Realities, One Cosmology: Indigenous Shamans Mastering Smallness in the Periphery of the Russian Empire

Anja Savić: Tradition as a Strategy of Resilience: Small-Scale Rural Communities in the Niš Region during the 1990s Crisis

Ane Marie Herceg: Minority within a Minority: Slovene-Speaking Women in Austrian Carinthia

Natalja Böhm: Small Networks, Big Impact: German-Ukrainian Entanglements in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Discussion

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. **PANEL 3: LOCAL AGENCY UNDER SOCIALISM AND BEYOND**

moderated by PD Dr. Lars Fredrik Stöcker

Ineta Šuopytė-Butkienė: Negotiating Planned Space: Use and Adaptation in Soviet Lithuania Rural Environments

Martynas Butkus: From Catholic Associational Culture to Environmental Movements: The Reconstruction of Civil Society in Lithuania on the Eve of Independence

Laura Clarissa Loew: Where Socialism is Supposed to Happen: Local Libraries in the Polish People's Republic as Sites of Negotiation

Julia Michcik: Small Practices and Everyday Negotiations of Inequalities as Sites of Agency

5:15 p.m. **DISCUSSION**

6:00 p.m. Break

6:30 p.m. **KEYNOTE LECTURE** by Prof. Dr. Zenonas Norkus

"Denmarkisation" of Interwar Lithuania: making a small modernising nation food resilient

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m. **PANEL 4: SMALL STATES AND THEIR STRATEGIC LEVERAGE**

moderated by Dr. Mindaugas Šapoka

Martin Gumiela: Underdogs in Western Markets: Private Companies in the West with Capital Participation from People's Poland (1950s–1980s)

Ioannis Brigkos: Trading Blood for Territory: The Greek Expeditionary Force in the Russian Civil War as a Diplomatic Asset

Trīne Žagare: Foreign Policy Strategies of Small States: Latvia's Use of Historical Narratives in Relations with Sweden from 1921 to 1940

Kristiāna Beļska: Securing a Fragile Frontier: Latvia's Border Security Strategy toward the Soviet Union in the 1920's

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. **DISCUSSION**

12:00 a.m. **SUMMARY, FINAL CONCLUSION**

12:30 p.m. Lunch



LITHUANIAN
INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY



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INSTITUTE OF THE LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION



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